

## **Carol Stream's State of the Village focuses on new projects, businesses**

CAROL STREAM – The village of Carol Stream hosted its annual State of the Village Address on May 14, providing Mayor Frank Saverino and guests an opportunity to reflect on what's happening in town.

The mayor discussed some of Carol Stream's most significant developments to a packed room of village officials and businessmen and women at the Carol Stream Chamber of Commerce's monthly luncheon at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites.

From transparency to safety, here are some highlights from the mayor's talk.

### **Striving for transparency**

Carol Stream's website contains full meeting agendas, budgets and financial audits, building permit applications, archived newsletters, elected officials' email addresses, department emails and phone numbers, and the municipal code.

The village puts everything it can where it's easy for the public to access, Saverino said.

Quote of note: "We don't try to hide anything. Today, you can't hide anything anyway."

### **Replanting trees**

Because of the emerald ash borer's effect on trees in town, Carol Stream has needed to remove and replant many trees.

Between Fiscal Years 2011 and 2014, the village removed 2,462 parkway trees and replanted 1,695 trees. The cost for the project was \$1 million.

The plan is to remove another 695 trees and replant 1,870 between Fiscal Years 2015 and 2017. The projected cost is \$859,250.

Quote of note: "I can finally see their houses now, when I couldn't even see them before. With the trees – they were destined to die anyway; it was a matter of time."

### **Making improvements**

The village has a budget for capital improvement projects of \$5.7 million.

Projects include roadway maintenance and trail-pathway construction along Lies and Kuhn roads and the West Branch DuPage River Trail.

Carol Stream also is looking to replace portions of the Schmale Road water main. A public meeting was held May 5 about the project.

Quote of note: "That seemed to go pretty well. The businesses showed up. It's good if the businesses show up."

### **Planning for the future**

Thanks to a partnership with the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, Carol Stream has begun a 14-month process to prepare a new Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

The plan is a 15-year vision for transportation, utilities, land use, recreation and housing.

Savings to the village through having CMAP's assistance – versus if the plan were prepared entirely in house – is \$100,000.

Quote of note: "I hope I'm still around 15 years from now to see what it's really going to look like."

### **Welcoming businesses**

New businesses in town include Pizzeria Da Nella, 598 North Ave.; Retro Fitness, 600 E. North Ave.; Piggly Wiggly, 998 W. Army Trail Road; XPO Global Logistics, 290 Gerzevske Lane; and Rush Truck Center, 575 St. Paul Blvd.

A Caputo's Fresh Market is expected to open in July at 520 E. North Ave.

Quote of note: "I'm happy because for us, this is the mother lode for us. Those are the things that we need in this town to keep no property tax, is businesses like that, that produce income for us."

### **Living safely**

Carol Stream was again named one of the 100 safest cities in the United States by Neighborhood Scout, a risk data analysis firm for Fortune 500 companies.

The village also is planning to begin a crime-free housing program to reduce crime, drugs and gangs in rental communities.

Quote of note: "If you don't live here, then you made a mistake."